

FOR LAND'S SAKE

Volume 1, Issue 2
September 17, 2010

TREE ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 24

The Land Conservation Department will be sending out Tree Order Forms on September 24. Forms can also be picked up at our office or the Lafayette County website at www.co.lafayette.wi.gov. The form has also been attached with this newsletter.

Orders may be placed by mail, phone, fax, or emailed to

lafayettelcd@yahoo.com.

December 10 is the deadline for orders to be returned to our office.

Tree order pick-up will be in late April or early May, 2011 at the Lafayette County Fairgrounds. A

postcard with details will be sent to you at that time.



Inside this issue:

Chris Miller, NRCS DC	2
Honey-Do List	2
SW Badger Biomass	3
Land Records Office	3
Contact Information	4
LCD Mission Statement	4
Deadlines	4

SIGN UP FOR FARMLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to remind everyone that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a continuous sign up and the application cut off for 2011 will happen this fall. EQIP is the primary program available to provide assistance with farmland conservation practices.

More than 70 conservation practices are available, depending upon the type of operation and resource need. EQIP offers flat-rate payments for each particular practice, so farmers know upfront what the payment will be.

All eligible applications received by the cut off period (to be determined) will be evaluated and ranked for funding. Farmers can sign up at the NRCS office in USDA Service Centers statewide.

For more information, see www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov under Programs, or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center in Darlington at 608-776-4028.

Helping People Help the Land
An Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

Special points of interest:

- Tree Order Forms
- EQIP Sign Up
- Meet Chris Miller, the New District Conservationist for NRCS
- WLI & Nutrient Management
- SW Badger Biomass Project
- Land Records Projects & Plans
- Who We Are & How To Reach Us

MEET CHRIS MILLER THE NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

My name is Chris Miller and I would like to introduce myself as the new District Conservationist in the Darlington Field Office. I grew up in Galena, IL and started as a Pheasants Forever intern in the Darlington Field Office and Mauston NRCS Field Office. After graduating from UWSP in December 2002, I worked part time in the Portage and Appleton Field Office for over a year. At that point, I packed up my bags and headed to Winner, SD as a Soil Conservation Technician and then to Akron, CO as

a Soil Conservationist. After 2.5 years out west, I returned to the Appleton FO as a Soil Conservationist for 2 years and then accepted the District Conservationist job in the Chilton Field Office where I have been for the last 1.5 years. My hobbies include hunting and fishing. I look forward to meeting and working with the landowners in Lafayette County!



Chris Miller
Lafayette County
District Conservationist

WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE

NEW WLI PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

All prior Farmland Preservation Participants (FPP) are reminded this program ended with the 2009 tax year. The program called, "Working Lands Initiative," will replace the old tax credit. If landowners want to participate they must contact Roger Lange at (608) 776 3836 ext 124 prior to working on their 2010

taxes. Don't wait until the last minute to do this. LCD resources are limited. All farmers are reminded to submit their 2010 NMP update (590 check list) to the Land Conservation

Department Office as soon as the update occurs.

FPP tax credits, which averaged about \$3.33/ac., could be replaced by credits of \$5, \$7.50, or \$10 /acre with WLI.

For more information on WLI visit the DATCP website at:

<http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/workinglands/index.jsp>

HERE'S OUR "HONEY-DO" LIST:

- LCD Tree Orders
- WLI and AEA application—ongoing
- Crediting and Nutrient Management Classes
- Rain Barrel Sales—End of Summer Special \$50
- Silver Springs Watershed - Landowner contacts & data collection
- LCD/County Budgets
- Due to a necessary phone system replacement, Voice Mail for the USDA Service Center is currently unavailable—Please bear with us.



SW BADGER BIOMASS PROJECT

Paraphrased from SW Badger August Newsletter



Badger RC&D received an Alliant Energy grant for \$62,000 to establish demonstrations of hybrid switchgrass, biomass sorghum and Miscanthus biomass. The record setting rains received this growing season were a challenge to establishment. Although planting was delayed 2-3 weeks, all three demonstrations are looking good.

Two varieties of Blade hybrid switchgrass were planted June 11. Both have a potential for 6-8 tons of biomass annually. They are a southern origin species, and yield in the Midwest is still unknown. A one acre plot of a diverse prairie mix and a one acre plot of Cave-In-Rock switchgrass were planted as a control.

The biomass sorghum plot was planted June 21 with 2 varieties of Blade sorghum seed on 7 acres, and using a Tye no-till drill. Half of the

demo plot will be chopped in early September and be analyzed for potential for cellulosic ethanol production. The rest will be baled in November for yield information for use as a biomass feedstock

The 2 acre Miscanthus plot was planted on July 25 through a contract with Mendel Biotechnology Inc. to plant and apply herbicide. Miscanthus is planted as a plug, using a 2-row vegetable transplanter. Two varieties were planted. The commercially available Illinois clone, and a proprietary variety produced by Mendel. Previous plantings have been susceptible to

winter kill, especially in the first year. Miscanthus has the potential to yield 10 tons of biomass in the third growing season.

For more information see the SW Badger website at www.swbadger.com

Miscanthus is a perennial grass native to subtropical & tropical regions of Africa and Southern Asia.

Rain Barrels

Last Chance At 2010 Prices

**Land Conservation Dept.
1900 Ervin Johnson Dr.
Darlington, WI 53530
(608) 776-3836**



LAND RECORDS OFFICE - MARY JEAN RITCHIE, COORDINATOR

LAFAYETTE COUNTY LAND RECORDS MOD- ERNIZATION PROGRAM

It has been a busy summer for the Land Records Office. The Census data has been completed and soon we will move on to the Redistricting project.

We GPS'd a couple of hundred section corner monuments. A five year modernization plan was established, written and approved by the full County Board, which will include some major exciting projects in the next five years.

It was also grant writing time, and the project this year will

be working on geographically locating hazardous waste sites and chemical locations within the County.

The initial stages of this project are being evaluated at present and I will be teaming up with the Darlington Fire Department to complete this pilot project. It will involve a lot of field work with the GPS unit and a Toughbook laptop.

We will be using the existing 911 Address Points file to attach the data geographically. Completing the database format to be compatible with surrounding Counties has been the main objective

at present. Hardware and software have been purchased and we will be rolling on this very soon. The information we will be compiling will in turn be incorporated into the existing 911 Dispatch Center located at the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department for all emergency personnel to employ. This will be a Tri-County effort with Iowa, Lafayette and Grant Counties and will benefit anyone living in or passing through Lafayette County



The Point of Beginning
Lafayette Co., WI

For Land's Sake

Lafayette County

Land Conservation

Department

LAFAYETTE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

1900 Ervin Johnson Drive
Darlington, WI 53530-9271

Phone: (608) 776-3836
Fax: (608) 776-2170



E-mail

lafayettelcd@yahoo.com

THE LAFAYETTE COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lafayette County Land Conservation Department's mission is the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources, through the implementation of conservation programs, ordinances and regulations, information and technical assistance to ensure responsible land use management.

Through education and example, we promote an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment and preserves the natural resources for the future.



DEADLINES



- September 25 — Clean Sweep at Lafayette County Highway Department 8:00—Noon. Must be pre-registered.
- Pharmaceutical Clean Sweep September 25, 8:00—Noon. No liquids accepted. No pre-registration & participation is anonymous.
- Fall -EQIP sign up, deadline To Be Announced
- September 30—Last Day to apply for the SURE Program

- September 30—Last Day to set crop priority for ACRE participants
- September 30—Last Day to revise a DCP/ACRE contract
- October 1—New DCP/ACRE sign up begins.
- October 7 —Tri-county Land Judging to be held in Grant County
- December 6—County Committee Election Ballots (FSA-669A) post-mark deadline

- December 9—Counting of FSA Committee ballots at 9:00 a.m. in the USDA Service Center
- December 21, 2010 — Nutrient Crediting Class at First Banking Center 10:00—Noon. Must be Pre-registered.
- LCD Tree Orders — Due by December 10, 2010